

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAJ-01 IO-13 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGRE-00
DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 /098 W
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R 041007Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8973
INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN
SUBJ: THAI-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS

SUMMARY: HANOI MEDIA HAVE REDUCED THE LEVEL OF INVECTIVE
AGAINST THAILAND SLIGHTLY. SRV HAS MADE A PURCHASE OF THAI
RICE, WHILE THE THAI HAVE MADE SOME AMENDS TO LONG-TIME VIET-
NAMESE REFUGEES IN ONE PROVINCE AND LEFT THE QUESTION OF THAI
SUPPORT FOR VIETNAMESE MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN DANGLING. END
SUMMARY.

1. ON THE FACE OF THINGS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THAI-VIETNAMESE
RELATIONS ARE AT A STANDSTILL, AS IF EACH COUNTRY IS WAITING
FOR THE OTHER. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SEVERAL SMALL DEVELOPMENTS
WHICH WOULD INDICATE SOME MOVEMENT IN RELATIONS.

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2. INFORMATION. HANOI DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN HITTING
BANGKOK VERY HARD IN RECENT WEEKS. DURING THIS PERIOD,
THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY TWO THEMES DEVELOPED TO A NOTEWORTHY
EXTENT. FIRST, HANOI CRITICIZED THE THAI-MALAYSIAN JOINT
BORDER OPERATION ON JAN 18, FOLLOWED TWO DAYS LATER BY AN
ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE'S DENIAL THAT U.S. FORCES

PLAN TO RETURN TO THAILAND. THE SUPREME COMMAND REPLIED TO THE FIRST THAT IT WAS AN INTERFERENCE IN THE TWO COUNTRIES' INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND SAID THAT THAILAND WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPRESS COMMUNISM. TO THE SECOND, THE RTG DENIED THAT AMERICAN FORCES WILL RETURN TO THAILAND AND ACCUSED HANOI OF INTERFERING IN THAI INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. UN MEMBERSHIP. IN AN AREA IN WHICH THAILAND HAS THE UPPER HAND, FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT PACHARIYANGKUN TOLD THE PRESS JAN 29 THAT THE RTG HAS NOT YET DECIDED HOW TO VOTE ON THE ADMISSION OF VIET-NAM INTO THE UN. HE PREDICTED THAT THE U.S. VETOES OF VIET-NA'S APPLICATIONS LAST YEAR WOULD TEND TO FORCE THAT COUNTRY TO ADHERE TO THE UN CHARTER.

4. ECONOMIC. AGATT HAS CONFIRMED A FEB 3 PRESS REPORT THAT VIET-NAM HAS PLACED AN ORDER FOR 30,000 TONS OF THAI RICE, TO BE DELIVERED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1977. THE ORDER IS BEING HANDLED THROUGH A SINGAPOREAN FIRM AND RECORDS, AT LEAST, WILL INDICATE THAT THE RICE IS BEING SHIPPED TO SINGAPORE RATHER THAN TO VIET-NAM.

5. REFUGEES. AMONG ALL THE CRITICISM WHICH IS LEVELLED TOWARD THE THAI FOR THEIR TREATMENT OF THE LONG-TIME VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THIS COUNTRY, TWO EVENTS IN NONG KHAI PROVINCE--AND PERHAPS ELSEWHERE--RECEIVED LITTLE NOTICE. ALTHOUGH THE REFUGEES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE CONFINED TO CERTAIN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, 70 "GOOD" VIETNAMESE RECEIVED CARDS IN NONG KHAI IN MID-JAN PERMITTING THEM TO TRAVEL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FREELY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IN LATE JAN THE GOVERNOR OF NONG KHAI DISTRIBUTED OVER \$400,000 TO VIETNAMESE REFUGEES THERE TO COMPENSATE FOR THEIR LOSSES DURING ANTI-VIETNAMESE DEMONSTRATIONS AND LOOTING WHICH TOOK PLACE TWO MONTHS EARLIER. BOTH OF THESE ARE FORTHCOMING GESTURES ON THE PART OF THE THAI.

6. WHILE MOST THAI WANT THE VIETNAMESE OUT OF THE COUNTRY, HANOI UNDOUBTEDLY EXPLOITS THE POSITION OF THE VIETNAMESE IN THAILAND, EXACERBATING DIVISIONS IN THAT ETHNIC GROUP AND PRESSURING THEM FOR SUPPORT. THE VIETNAMESE IN THAILAND ARE VERY WELL ORGANIZED. A GROUP NAMED, ROUGHLY, THE "SRV RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION" MET NEWSMEN VISITING NONG KHAI IN THE THIRD WEEK OF JAN DURING A TOUR OF REFUGEE CAMPS. SOME 200 TO 300 MEMBERS OF THE GROUP PRESENTED FORM LETTERS TO NEWSMEN COMPLAINING OF THAI MISTREATMENT, SOMETHING WHICH MUST HAVE RILED THE HOST THAI OFFICIALS. OTHER REFUGEES HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE HANOI-LINKED FORMER HEAD OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

IN THAILAND, TRAN LAM, AND THE EXPULSION OF THE PERSON NAMED BY THE RTG TO HEAD THE REFUGEES. YET, AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE "FREE VIETNAMESE IN THAILAND", WHO STATE THAT THEY ARE LONG-TIME REFUGEES AND DECLARE THEIR LOVE OF FREEDOM. THE LETTER APPEALS TO FELLOW VIETNAMESE NOT TO FOLLOW THE COMMUNISTS AND TO MAKE AN HONEST LIVING.

7. COMMENT. THE CHARGES CURRENTLY MAKING HEADLINES IN BANGKOK OF VIETNAMESE TROOPS LOCATED CLOSE TO THE THAI-LAO FRONTIER, AS WELL AS THE STANDING ONE OF VIETNAMESE AND LAO ASSISTANCE TO THE INSURGENTS, CONTINUE TO KEEP THE THAI ON THEIR GUARD TOWARD THE HANOI REGIME. HOWEVER, THERE ARE OTHER ASPECTS OF THEIR TIES--INVECTIVE OR LACK OF IT, SUPPORT IN INTERNATIONAL BODIES, ECONOMIC DEALS, TREATMENT OF REFUGEES--ON WHICH THE TWO CAN CONSTRUCT A WORKING RELATIONSHIP, ASSUMING THAT THEY CHOOSE TO DO SO. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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